

the consciousness of elected officials and the general public, which has led to greater respect and protection for crime victims.

Don has also served in a number of other important capacities. He has been a member of the International Narcotics Law Enforcement Association, the National Intelligence Board, Governor George Deukmejian's Blue Ribbon Commission on Public Safety, the California Industrial Welfare Commission, the California Athletics Commission, and the board of the Kevin Collins Foundation, which works to locate missing and abducted children.

Don's own children and grandchildren are a high priority in his life. He and his wife, Carol, are the proud parents of Donald, Brandy, and Shanon. They also enjoy spending time with their five grandchildren. In short, his life so far has been one of hard work and achievement, patriotism and service, family and friendship. The people of California and the United States are better off for his efforts.

Now as he enjoys retirement from his career in corrections, I thank him for his service, support, and friendship. As a friend and fellow resident of my hometown of Rocklin, I wish him well in his future endeavors. I have no doubt that we have not heard the last from Don Novey.

HONORING CÉSAR E. CHÁVEZ

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2003

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, the history of the United States is filled with heroes who, through personal sacrifice and a strong commitment to their cause, have left their mark on society. Today, I am proud to honor the life and accomplishments of California's own, the late, talented union organizer, César E. Chávez.

Born on March 31, 1927 to a farming family in Yuma, AZ, César learned early that life is filled with challenges. He was ten years old when his family lost their farm during the Depression. By 1938, the Chávez family joined thousands of others following the crops throughout the Southwest, eventually making it to California. It was during this period that César began to realize that he and the other migrant workers not only lived in deplorable conditions but also were treated as second-class citizens.

After his tour of duty in the U.S. Navy at the end of World War II, César returned to California with his wife Helena to continue farming. In 1952, he met Fred Ross, an organizer for the Community Service Organization (CSO). César flourished as an active member of this organization, conducting voter registration drives, battling racial and economic discrimination, and organizing new CSO chapters across California and Arizona. During the late 1950s and early 1960s, César became the national director of CSO. But no matter how hard he worked, he continued to have trouble persuading workers to fight for their rights because they were afraid of losing their jobs.

In order to fulfill his desire to create a union for farm workers, César left his position with the CSO in 1962. He traveled from camp to camp recruiting workers. With the assistance of his family, he managed to organize 300

members into the National Farm Workers Union, NFWA, later changed to the United Farm Workers, UFW. Through César's leadership, the UFW gained the national support of unions, church groups, students, minorities, and consumers.

César's commitment brought dignity and respect to the farm workers who organized themselves and became an inspiration and a resource to other Americans and people engaged in human rights struggles throughout the world. His fast in 1968 for 25 days prompted the late Senator Robert F. Kennedy to call him "one of the most heroic figures of our time".

From 1965 through the 1980s, César led numerous strikes, boycotts, and protests—not only to increase wage earnings at the time, but also to increase public awareness to the plight of the migrant workers. During the 1980s, the number of farm workers working under UFW contacts rose tremendously, allowing them to enjoy higher pay, family health coverage, pension benefits and other contract protections.

César E. Chávez worked until his death on April 23, 1993, defending the rights of farm workers to the end. Even now, his spirit and legacy continue to be studied and rewarded.

On August 8, 1994, Chávez became only the second Mexican-American to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the United States. Also, in that same year, his family and officers of the UFW created the César E. Chávez Foundation to inspire current and future generations by promoting the ideals of César's life, work, and vision.

The State of California honored his life and work in 2000 by proclaiming March 31 as César E. Chávez Day. California dedicates the remainder of the week to paying tribute to the great union leader by teaching elementary and secondary school children about his work. I am also honored to announce that I am an original cosponsor of House Resolution 112, which will establish a national legal public holiday in honor of the great social justice leader.

Today, César E. Chávez would have celebrated his 76th birthday. I am proud to celebrate his life and work. May his spirit and dedication continue to be an inspiration to those engaged in human rights struggles throughout the world.

CELEBRATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORP

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the seventieth anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps, and to pay tribute to the commendable service its members offered our nation. Created by President Franklin Roosevelt on March 31, 1933, the Civilian Conservation Corps had a profound impact on this nation, helping to sustain the United States through the depths of the Depression, and setting a precedent for other federal agencies to carry on the diverse missions of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Within days after his presidential inauguration, Franklin Roosevelt initiated plans for the

Civilian Conservation Corps, citing the need for an organization that would provide jobs for hundreds of thousands of unemployed young men aged 18 to 25. President Roosevelt declared that the Civilian Conservation Corps would "conserve our precious natural resources and pay dividends to the present and future generations. More important, we can take a vast army of the unemployed out into healthful surroundings." The Civilian Conservation Corps' intention was not only to provide services to the United States but also to give the unemployed an opportunity to live in healthful surroundings with steady pay, room, board, and clothing.

During the nine years the Civilian Conservation Corps was in operation, more than 3 million men were involved in the program nationally, working on projects like dam improvement, tree planting, laying telephone lines, and creating trails. Almost 55,000 men served on projects throughout New Mexico. More than 32,000 of them were residents of New Mexico.

By July 1, 1933, a quarter of a million enrollees had enlisted in the Civilian Conservation Corps, making it the fastest large-scale mobilization of men in U.S. history. The enrollees enlisted for six months with the option to reenroll for another six months or a maximum of two years. They worked forty-hour weeks and received thirty dollars a month. Each month, they required the men to send twenty-five dollars to their families to help them through the difficulties of the Depression. The Civilian Conservation Corps provided members with the opportunity to learn a new skill and allowed them to attend classes to further their education. More than 100,000 men were taught to read and write with the aid of the Civilian Conservation Corps's education classes.

The accomplishments the Civilian Conservation Corps achieved in its nine-year existence are impressive. Historical areas in Jamestown, Williamsburg, Yorktown, Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania were restored and developed by the Corps members. At the program's peak, there were over 500 Civilian Conservation Corps camps in national, state, and local parks. Civilian Conservation Corps workers cleared trails, built buildings and shelters, fought forest fires, planted trees, and made other improvements to parks in all the states, territories, and possessions. The three million men planted a total of 2.3 billion trees, spent 6.4 million days fighting forest fires and eradicated diseases and pests. These accomplishments contributed to the Civilian Conservation Corps' lasting environmental legacy. Today, agencies such as Americorps, the Park Service, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Forest Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service are continuing the tradition of the Civilian Conservation Corps by instilling a sense of value for our natural environment as well as for national service.

Because of its major presence in New Mexico, the Civilian Conservation Corps worked on several projects throughout the state, including Rattlesnake Springs and Bandelier National Monument, aimed at benefiting both its members and residents of New Mexico. The men of the Civilian Conservation Corps also developed Hyde, Elephant Butte, Conchas, Bottomless Lake, and Santa Fe River Parks, among others.

Communities across the country benefited from the hard toil of the Civilian Conservation Corps. The camps helped local economies,

bringing large numbers of consumers to the towns' stores and industries. More importantly, they aided the communities in times of crisis, searching for missing persons, fighting fires, and offering assistance to residents during snow and ice storms.

Today, the legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps lives on in the New Mexico Youth Conservation Corps Act, which was adopted by the state Legislature in 1992. YCC provides employment for young people in projects that conserve the state's natural resources. The YCC provides a \$1,000 tuition voucher as additional compensation for those who serve. The voucher may be used at any institution of higher education in the state of New Mexico.

Besides offering the members an opportunity to work, the Civilian Conservation Corps provided long-lasting friendships and ties that have endured over the seventy years since the Corps' inception. This sense of loyalty and pride extended to an unquestionable sense of pride for our country that is almost unparalleled. The work of the Civilian Conservation Corps remains as a monument to the young men who dedicated their lives to mending and preserving our natural resources. These men have earned the respect and honor of our nation. I offer my heartfelt thanks to the members of the Civilian Conservation Corps and congratulations on their seventieth anniversary.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF TIMOTHY T. WILLIAMS

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2003

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Timothy T. Williams, a resident of my district who has worked tirelessly for Baltimore's homeless citizens.

For the past 12 years, Mr. Williams has demonstrated outstanding service as Executive Director of the South Baltimore Homeless Shelter, where he led the development of a therapeutic community for homeless men with substance abuse problems, and skillfully managed comprehensive emergency services for homeless women and children. He has designed a community recovery model, through which graduates of the South Baltimore transitional shelter services provide counseling to homeless residents at South Baltimore Station and affiliated agencies, such as Carrington House.

Mr. Williams will now expand his work in the continuum of care for Baltimore's homeless and addicted by joining Jobs, Housing and Recovery, Inc., where he will develop supportive housing facilities and vocational services as the next step to recovery for Baltimore residents transitioning out of homelessness.

Mr. Williams received a bachelor's degree from Wheeling Jesuit University and a Juris Doctor from the University of Baltimore School of Law. Mr. Williams also served as a VISTA volunteer in Texas, where he provided legal aid services to the rural poor.

I commend and thank Timothy Williams for his outstanding contributions to Baltimore and its citizens, and I wish him continued success in all future endeavors.

CLARIFYING THE ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS OF THE HATCH ACT

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill on behalf of myself as chairman of the Committee on Government Reform and Representative FRANK WOLF. This legislation will clarify the intent of Congress regarding the enforcement of the Hatch Act.

The Hatch Act is a critical component of the system of laws designed to maintain the public's confidence in the professionalism of our nation's civil servants. The Act proscribes the types of political activity covered civil servants may engage in. The Act is intended to protect civil servants from political coercion by politically appointed supervisors. It is also intended to assure the impartial administration of Federal laws.

Since 1993 the general posture of the Hatch Act has been permissive, allowing civil servants wide latitude to be involved in non-partisan political activities in their communities. Federal employees are restricted from using their official authority to interfere in an election, and from soliciting or receiving political campaign contributions as well as several other activities relating to the use of their public authority for partisan effect. Covered employees also may not run for elective office in most partisan elections. The Act states that the penalty for violating the Act is a 30-day suspension without pay or, for egregious violations, termination from the civil service.

The Hatch Act is investigated and prosecuted by the United States Office of Special

Counsel (OSC). This office is primarily charged with protecting civil servants from prohibited personnel practices, especially reprisal for whistleblowing activities. The OSC also investigates and prosecutes, when appropriate, violations of the Hatch Act.

Unfortunately, recent activities of the OSC have raised questions about the Office's interpretation of their prerogatives under the Hatch Act. Specifically, the OSC is attempting to prosecute an individual who is no longer an employee of the Federal government for an alleged Hatch Act violation. This action is clearly outside of the authority Congress granted under the 1993 Amendments to the Hatch Act since the only penalties are suspension or termination.

The bill accomplishes two goals.

First, it clarifies that a Federal employee who voluntarily separates from the civil service may not be penalized under the provisions of the Hatch Act. The bill also states that if that person rejoins the federal service the OSC may reopen that investigation should they so choose.

Second, this bill strikes two regulations promulgated by the OSC as routine use exceptions to the Privacy Act. These two exceptions allow the OSC to release private information for almost any reason as long as the records are used to defend the Office of the Special Counsel. The Privacy Act describes a routine use under 5 U.S.C. § 552a (7) as "the use of such record for a purpose which is compatible with the purpose with which it is collected." Since the OSC does not collect and develop its investigation files for the purpose of defending its reputation, these regulations are clearly inappropriate.

54,000 federal employees live in my district. These women and men provide much of the talent and energy that makes the local community work. In 1993, Congress amended the Hatch Act to create a very simple standard for behavior with very limited proscriptions for political behavior. The hope was to create an environment where these citizens would feel free to fully express themselves in the non-partisan political arena.

The zealous prosecution by the OSC is beginning to erode this framework of limited proscriptions. At a time when fewer and fewer people bother to participate in local government the Congress should re-affirm its commitment to local communities and to its own employees by reinforcing the limited, permissive character of the Hatch Act.